

[15 December, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

(b) and (c) There is BO authentic information on the opinion of Professor of Computational and Visual neurosciences in the Department of Brain at Cognitive Science at MIT, USA about visual impaired children in India. However, childhood blindness is one of the focused area under the National Programme for Control of Blindness. Steps being taken under the Programme for prevention and control of Childhood blindness during the Tenth five year plan are:—

- (i) to provide eye glasses to about 1.5 million children having significant refractive errors.
- (ii) To develop 50 paediatric ophthalmology Units at tertiary level.
- (iii) To train at least 200 eye specialities in various sub-specialities of ophthalmology including paediatric Ophthalmology.
- (iv) To develop IEC for paediatric ophthalmology.

Non-availability of basic medicines

2655. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that according to a report given by Oxfam, two people out of every three in India do not get even the basic medicines like Paracetamol;

(b) if so, the reasons for denial of the basic facilities like medicines; and

(c) the steps Government are considering to address the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Basic amenities in PHCs and CHCs

2656. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by National Sample Survey Organization